



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#41705
12/20/01

In re application of

Yuichi ASAMI, et al.

Appln. No. 09/778,055

Group Art Unit: 3713

Confirmation No.: 7352

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: February 07, 2001

For: GAME MACHINE, GAME MUSIC OUTPUT METHOD, INFORMATION STORAGE MEDIUM, GAME PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION DEVICE, AND GAME PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION METHOD

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations:

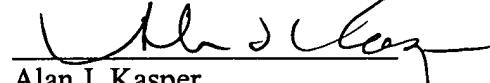
Please see the Information Sheet attached herewith stating the concise explanation.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
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waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 12, 2001

INFORMATION SHEET

Your Ref.: Q62904

Our Ref.: KN-50020 (US)

Country: Taiwan

Taiwanese Patent Publication number: 238378

Taiwanese Patent Publication date: January 11, 1995

Title: Back chorus combining method and karaoke system employing the same

Concise explanation:

Back chorus played for one piece of music is desirably divided and arranged, thereby forming two or more chorus patterns. Each pattern is put into data and stored in a storage means. All chorus patterns for the music being played is read from the storage medium, while music is being played based on music data according to MIDI Standard, and an appropriate chorus pattern is selected and combined with the music in synchronization with the music reproduction. This arrangement enables to create unique sound based on music data according to MIDI Standard, while the memory capacity of the storage means is minimized. This arrangement also makes it possible to obtain natural back chorus through reproduction of back chorus data based on human voice rather than according to MIDI Standard.